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**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 2A-2HM illustrate the continuous cDNA nucleotide sequence alignment of the BDV strains described by de la Torre, J. Virol., 68:7669-7675 (1994) indicated as BDV JCT and by Briesse et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 91:4382-4386 (1994) indicated as BDV Briesse. Dots indicate the same nucleotide sequence as that found in the same position in the consensus sequence. Nucleotide substitutions for each strain are indicated above the consensus sequence. At those positions, the consensus sequence presents the possible substitutions according to the convention adopted by the IUPAC-IUB Biochemical Nomenclature Commission. The consensus sequence is also listed as SEQ ID NO 1.